



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting melanin synthesis in the skin of a patient comprising administering directly to said skin of said patient an amount of ZAG sufficient to effect said inhibition.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 2 wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding ZAG is administered under conditions such that said sequence is expressed and ZAG is thereby produced.
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 wherein said patient suffers from ~~increased or aberrant skin pigmentation~~ hyperpigmentation.
7. (Cancelled).

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 2 wherein ZAG is administered systemically.
9. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising ZAG wherein said composition is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion.
10. (Withdrawn) A sterile composition comprising ZAG and a carrier.
11. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising ZAG in dosage unit form.
12. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein said hyperpigmentation results from sun-exposure, inflammation or scarring.
13. (New) The method according to claim 6 wherein said patient suffers from a disorder associated with congenital or acquired proliferation of melanocytes.